

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

32-2 Burma India

FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
		5
L	FBO	AID
		12
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		3
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	20	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
33	10	3
		NSC
		6

A-740

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

NO.

TO : Department of State

INFO : HONG KONG, RANGOON, BOMBAY, CALCUTTA, MADRAS, RAWALPINDI
DACCA

FROM : Anembassy NEW DELHI

DATE: March 16, 1967

SUBJECT : Indo-Burmese Agreement on Border Demarcation

REF : A-739

The Governments of India and Burma signed an agreement in Rangoon on March 10 formally to delimit and demarcate the boundary between the two countries. The agreement, which is subject to ratification within three months, provides for the establishment of a Joint Boundary Commission to plan and carry out the demarcation, prepare boundary maps, and draft a boundary treaty.

The agreement was signed by Colonel Kyi Maung on behalf of the Burmese Government and by K. M. Kannampilly, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs for the Government of India.

A Press Note on the agreement issued by the MEA said that the agreement would "further strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries."

An MEA spokesman added that the Indo-Burmese border had given no difficulties, and that there were no disputes concerning the border, but the absence of a formal treaty was thought by both Governments to be undesirable. According to the spokesman, Kannampilly had gone to Rangoon to discuss ways of preventing the movement of hostile elements across the Indo-Burmese frontiers, but in the course of discussions it was found that it would be useful to have a formal boundary agreement.

BOWLES

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by:

FE/EX:SPS:ba: 3/14/67

Contents and Classification Approved by:

FE/EX:CH:Ston: 3/14/67

Clearances:

FE/EX:LCrant

FE/EX:GEO:WCox

AIRGRAM

LR POL 32 BURMA-THAI
FOR RM USE ONLY

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR
7		5
E	P	IO
		5
L	FBO	AID
3		
	S/P	
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	20	5
OSD	USIA	NSA
33		3
NSC		
6		

A-191

CONFIDENTIAL

LR POL 32 BURMA-PAK

HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INFO : BANGKOK, CALCUTTA, CHIENGMAI, DACCA, MANDALAY, NEW DELHI, RAWALPINDI

RECEIVED 031601F
MAR 22 11 06 AM 1967

FROM : Amembassy RANGOON

DATE: March 18, 1967

SUBJECT : Burma-India Boundary Agreement; Border Discussions between Burmese and Thai and between Burmese and Pakistani Officials.

REF :

1. Burma and India signed a boundary agreement in Rangoon on March 10, 1967. Newspaper reports did not provide details of the agreement and mentioned no particular problem areas but merely said, "The Agreement provides for establishment of a Joint Boundary Commission which will plan and carry out the demarcation of the boundary between the two countries, prepare boundary maps and a draft boundary treaty". Shri K. M. Kannampilly, Joint Secretary of the South Asia Division of the Ministry of External Affairs, signed the agreement for India; Colonel Kyi Maung, a fast-rising officer on the Army General Staff, signed for Burma.

2. We are inclined to believe that there are some politically sensitive features in this agreement. Both Burmese and Indian officials in Rangoon are quite close-mouthed about the agreement; in conversation with Embassy officers they attempt to pass off the agreement as quite routine. Yet the amount of discussion that took place between the two sides prior to the agreement would indicate some unusual features. Indian External Affairs Minister Chagla (accompanied among others, by Kannampilly) visited Burma on January 20, reportedly to discuss economic and cultural matters and to get acquainted with General Ne Win and Foreign Minister U Thi Han. On February 17 Kannampilly brought a delegation to Burma, reportedly to discuss matters discussed earlier by Chagla.

GROUP-3

Downgraded at 12-year intervals,
not automatically declassified.

CONFIDENTIAL

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

☒ In ☐ Out

FORM 4-62 DS-323

Drafted by: POL/ECON:LSbigelow/elc

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL/ECON:ECInganam

Clearances:

Rangoon A-191

CONFIDENTIAL

2

Finally Kannampilly made a third trip to Rangoon and it was announced that he signed a border agreement, of which there had been no mention earlier.

3. On the Burmese side, it is curious that the agreement was signed by Colonel Kyi Maung rather than a Foreign Office official. (He should not be confused with another Colonel Kyi Maung, a former member of the Revolutionary Council who has been under detention since 1965.) Colonel Kyi Maung is not a member of the Revolutionary Council and is not attached in any way to the Foreign Office. He was promoted to full colonel only in 1966 but is now reportedly one of the top colonels on the general staff of the Burma Army. The fact that Colonel Kyi Maung signed for the Burmese leaves room for speculation that General Ne Win may have thought the matter so sensitive that he preferred it to be handled by one of his trusted officers rather than by the Foreign Office.

4. Continuing the speculation, if the agreement is politically sensitive it would presumably be so only with reference to a third party, such as Pakistan or China. If the former, it might involve the Indian troubles with Mizo tribesmen and rumored Pakistani assistance through Burmese territory to these tribesmen. If the latter, it might involve demarcation of the area where Burmese, Chinese, and Indian borders meet. A local newsman is propounding the theory that by signing the agreement Burma has accepted the Indian version of the China-India border in that area.

5. In February Burma had border discussions with both Pakistan and Thailand. In both cases the discussions involved local officials. The meeting with the Pakistanis was at Maungdaw, Burma. The meeting with the Thais was at Chiengrai, Thailand. There is a formal Burma-Thai General Border Committee, but according to press reports this was the first meeting of the committee in four years. Nothing has appeared here as to the substance of either meeting.

Comment. It is difficult to fathom what, if anything, is behind this flurry of activity relating to Burma's borders with its non-communist neighbors. There are a number of recent reports that relatively large groups of Chinese refugees have been crossing the inadequately policed border into northern Burma from Yunnan. Conceivably Ne Win could be tidying up his other borders in anticipation of border troubles in the north. Alternately, the activity could be related to the current (Thailand) or potential (India and Pakistan) use of foreign sanctuary by Burma's ethnic insurgent groups, whose depredations have increased noticeably in recent months.

BYROADE 

CONFIDENTIAL